(a) whether the High Power Committee set up to go into the one-rank one-pension scheme has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main observations and recommendations of the Committee and the decision taken by the government thereon; and

(c) if not, the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c). The High Level Empowered Committee constituted by the Government to review the difficulties faced by pre 1.1.1986 Defence Pensioners and, *inter alia*, examine the demand for One Rank One Pension is required to submit its report by 31.12.1991.

[*English*]

Defence Equipment Supplies from USSR

428. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether difficulties have arisen in procuring defence supplies including spares from the Soviet Union as per Indo Soviet Protocols after the recent changes in the Soviet Union; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure free flow of the supplies and spares so that our Defence capability is not affected?

THE MINISTER DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). The political and economic changes taking place in the Soviet Union could create dislocations in our bilateral Defence Cooperation arrangements. Govt. are, however, maintaining continuous contact with the Soviet authorities to ensure a smooth flow of supplies. Simultaneously, Government are also pursuing measures to meet essential requirements from other sources abroad and through indigenous production facilities.

Redemption of Gold Pledged with Bank of England

429. SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE:
SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan taken by the Reserve Bank of India against gold pledged with the Bank of England during July, 1991;

(b) the amount repaid so far to redeem the pledged gold;

(c) the steps, if any, taken by the Union Government to bring back the pledged gold; and

(d) the time by which the pledged gold will be brought back?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Loans taken against the collateral of gold transferred to Bank of England, London were equivalent to Rs. 1037 crores.

(b) The loans taken by pledging gold as indicated in (a) above have been fully discharged.

(c) and (d). The Reserve Bank of India has been requested to chalk out a plan to bring all the gold back and to initiate a process of bringing back gold in instalments taking into account the level of currency reserves and security considerations for such transactions.